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ON THE GREEN
A publication for Kendall Green staff and faculty

New students warmly welcomed and challenged at inaugural Convocation

By Mike Kaika

For the first time in the University's history, a convocation ceremony was held to greet Gallaudet's new students and their families and friends. President I. King Jordan stood before a near capacity audience in Elstad Auditorium August 18 to welcome the members of the Class of 2001.

"We have been preparing for your arrival for almost a year," said Dr. Jordan. "Faculty have been revising and designing curricula to better prepare you for the 21st century." Jordan then briefly shared some history of Gallaudet with the audience, including an explanation of the President's Medallion, which is worn on special, ceremonial occasions. "I am proud to wear this and hope you will see this again at your graduation," said Jordan.

Deborah DeStefano, director of the Office of Admissions, told the new students, "I have been looking forward to this day for many months. I feel as if I know many of you." DeStefano also welcomed the 150 new graduate students and 31 students from the English Language Institute.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Roslyn Rosen talked to the students about the "Five C's" at Gallaudet: Community, Communication, Connectiveness, Character, and Commitment, which she called "the building blocks of success at Gallaudet."

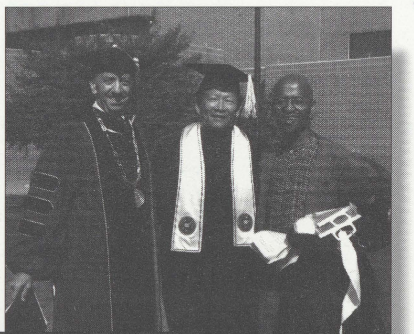
Dr. Michael Moore, chair of the University Faculty, commented on the Tower Clock at Chapel Hall and how it has served as a symbol for students and alumni of the importance and influence Gallaudet has on the deaf community. Dr. Edward Beasley, the faculty marshall for the Convocation, displayed the Mace, which bears the image of the Tower Clock.

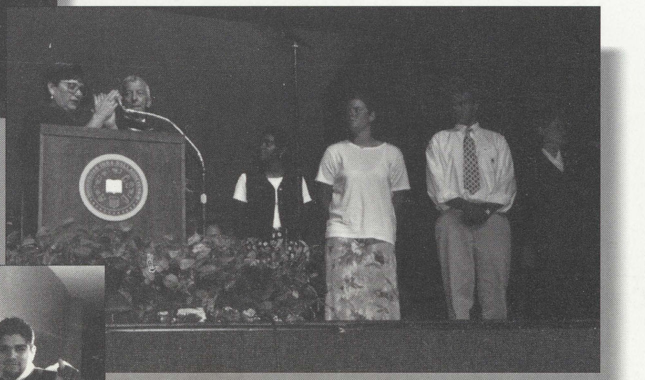
Lindsay Dunn, special assistant to the president for Diversity and Community Relations, talked about how the University community is enriched by the diverse make-up of its members. "We celebrate differences in race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and communication. For without diversity, we cannot grow," he said.

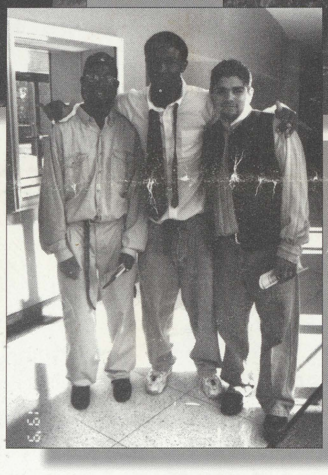
Academic traditions were shared by Dr. Stephen Weiner, dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, Carl Pramuk, executive director of Student Affairs, Jean-Pierre Mbei, president of the Graduate Student Association, 1996-97, and David Kurs, president of the Student Body Government.

Dr. Catherine Andersen, coordinator of Freshman Studies, Orientation Programs, and Retention, and Norma Buemi, coordinator of Orientation Programs, selected four students to represent the Class of 2001 in accepting challenges that have been set forth—challenges that, if met, will ensure their success at Gallaudet University. Buemi asked Latrina Harris, Stacy Nowak, Luke Ocuto, and Heather Schoenwald to come on the stage. After Buemi read the challenges, each student signed his or her name to the paper, accepting the challenges.

The audience then gave an ovation to these students and their classmates as they prepare to pursue a bachelor's degree at Gallaudet University. G







Clockwise from top: President Jordan, Board of Associates Chair John Yeh, and Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Community Relations Lindsay Dunn join the procession of faculty and staff. Coordinator of Orientation Programs Norma Buemi introduces students (from left) Latrina Harris, Stacy Nowak, Luke Ocuto, and Heather Schoenwald, who read the "Class Challenges." New friends (from left) Devon Jones, Benro Ogunyipe, and Jose Ramirez pause on their way to Convocation. School of Education faculty members (from left) Dr. Robert Mobley, Dr. David Martin, Dr. Barbara Bodner-Johnson, Dr. Thomas Jones, and Dr. Jan Hafer, join SEHS Dean William McCrone.

Grants support programs, training, research

Many of the significant programs and training and research projects that Gallaudet undertakes to benefit deaf and hard of hearing people would not be possible without grant support from federal, state, and private agencies.

Gallaudet's Office of Sponsored Programs projects that 27 grant and contract awards totaling $2,626,741 will be received by the University by September 30, the close of the 1997 fiscal year.

The figure includes 16 awards totaling $1,112,869 received during the first 10 months of FY 1997 and 11 awards pending for the final two months in the amount of $1,513,872

The awards and the total amount of funding fall closely in line with FY 1996 when the University received 27 grant and contract awards totaling $2,772,092.

"With major reorganizations in the federal government, FY '97 has been a very challenging year," said Stan Matelski, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs. "Both grant negotiations and awards to Gallaudet have been seriously delayed, evidenced by the record backlog of 11 awards worth over $1.5 million, which should be issued to Gallaudet by September 30."

Considering the federal funding situation and the keen competition for grants, Matelski said that he is pleased with the FY '97 grant projects, which support Gallaudet's vision and its mission of teaching, research, technical assistance, and public service. "With several excellent proposals outstanding, the Office of Sponsored Programs remains hopeful that the FY '97 grant award level may yet exceed that of FY '96," he said.

The titles of the grants received during the first 10 months of FY '97, their amounts, their funding agencies, project dates, and the names of their principal investigators and project

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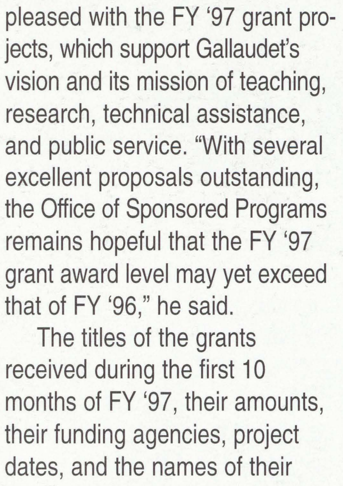


Students in the Young Scholars Program who explored the art and culture of Mexico, are shown in a scene from their Showcase Performance. (See related story, page 3.)

A-RAP launched into orbit

Curiosity, excitement, and enthusiasm were in plentiful supply on August 20 when 25 faculty, staff, and teachers gathered for the "Official Launch" of **Action*Results*Assessment*Planning (A-RAP)**, the planning process that will take Gallaudet not just *to* the year 2000 but well beyond it.

"This is the next generation of strategic planning," President I. King Jordan said to those assembled at the Launch. "It's different from what we did in the past because it will set into motion a process by which the University will continuously improve itself. A-RAP will make it possible to identify those programs and services the University does really well so that they can be expanded and/or duplicated."

Every person at the Launch was there because he or she was asked to join one of three teams, each of which is concentrating on one of the three strategic objectives established by Dr. Jordan and the vice presidents. The day was devoted to team-building activities and concluded with Jordan giving the teams their specific charges.

There will be more about A-RAP in future issues of *On the Green.*

IT'S A RAP!
Action•Results•Assessment•Planning

Action*Results* Assessment*Planning

Continuing the best; focusing on the future.

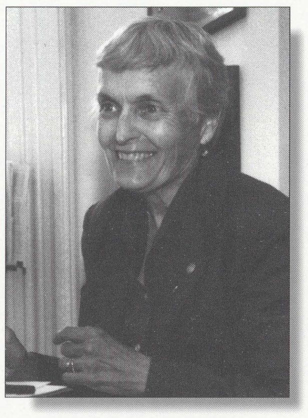
A-RAP is a unique planning process that Gallaudet is following to achieve three strategic objectives. Those objectives are:

I. Gallaudet students achieve their academic goals and attain productive employment.
II. Gallaudet sets the national standard for best practices in education for deaf and hard of hearing people.
III. Gallaudet establishes a sustainable resource base. G

UP CLOSE

By Mike Kaika

Laura-Jean Gilbert



Laura-Jean "Lolly" Gilbert has been working at Gallaudet since 1971. She was hired as a senior writer in the Office of Alumni and Public Relations and then moved up to director of News and Information Services and now is director of Publications and Production in the Division of Administration and Business.

Lolly is one of those rare individuals who does the work of two or three people. In fact, on her office door someone posted her coat of arms...a jacket with eight sleeves! Her office is now located in Denison House on Faculty Row. But when Publications and Production was in MSSD it was a common sight to see her walking to the Print Shop at the opposite end of the campus. She doesn't always send one of her staff members to do her leg work.

In addition to her commitment to Gallaudet, Lolly finds time to serve others on the Board of Directors of Deaf-REACH and Miriam's Kitchen. At Miriam's Kitchen, which serves breakfast to about 150 homeless people a day, Lolly cooks and washes pots and pans every Monday and Friday before coming to work at Gallaudet. She is just beginning a two-year term as president of Deaf-REACH. She is also a board member of Chevy Chase players and tries to work backstage or take on a small role in at least one production a season.

Lolly also has a penchant for studying; she received her BA degree in English from Emerson College, then went on and earned a master's degree in religious education from Union Theological Seminary in New York. After she began working at Gallaudet, she decided to pursue another master's degree, enrolled in American University, and received an M.S. in public relations. She is presently enrolled at Gallaudet and hopes to receive her Ph.D. in administration and supervision before the turn of the century.

In between all the work, studying, volunteering, and occasional jury duty, she and her husband love to vacation in Europe. They also make an annual trek to New England to keep in touch with their families—both are originally from Massachusetts.

Her professional accomplishments and achievements have not gone unrecognized. She was honored by the Gallaudet Community Relations Council with the Individual Achievement Award for her service to the Washington, D.C., community. The International Association of Business Communicators' local chapter presented Lolly with its Communicator of the Year award. And, the Gallaudet University Alumni Association presented her with its President's Award for her contributions to the alumni association.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **4** Part-time On-Campus Job Fair, 11a.m.-2 p.m., Ely Multipurpose Room
- **5** Last day for graduate students to add/drop courses;
  Women's Soccer at Bowie State University, 4 p.m.;
  Student Activities Movie Night, 7 p.m., Ely Auditorium
- **6** Football (Home) vs. Williamson Trade, 1 p.m., Hotchkiss Field;
  Student Activities Movie Night, 7 p.m., Ely Auditorium
- **6-7** Men's Soccer at Lynchburg College, time TBA;
  Volleyball at Messiah College, time TBA
- **7** Men's/Women's Cross Country at Elizabethtown College or Montgomery College
- **8-11** Asian-Pacific Association Bake Sale, Ely Center
- **10** Women's Soccer at Dundalk Community College, 6 p.m.;
  Volleyball (Home) vs. Columbia Union College, 6 p.m., Field House

Gallaudet student-athletes excel at World Games

By Brett Marhanka

For a number of Gallaudet students, staff, and alumni, the summer was anything but a vacation. For these individuals, months of fund raising and physical conditioning brought them to Copenhagen, Denmark, July 14-26 for the 18th World Games for the Deaf. As noted in the July 10 issue of *On the Green*, the U.S. WGD team used Kendall Green as its training camp before departing for Denmark.

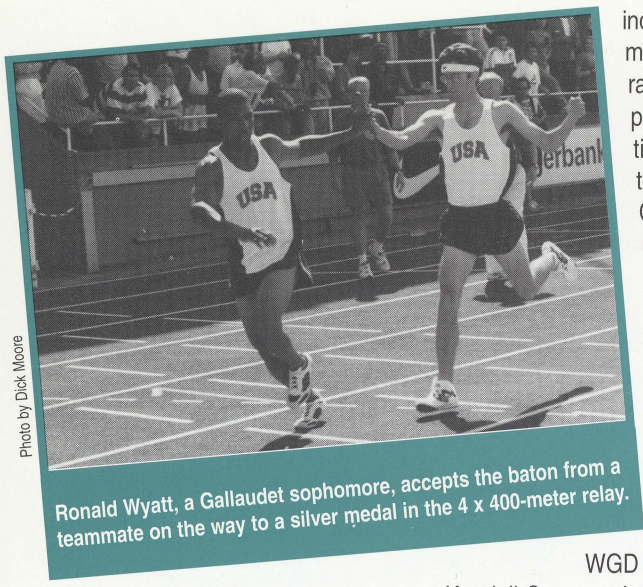


Photo by Dick Moore

Ronald Wyatt, a Gallaudet sophomore, accepts the baton from a teammate on the way to a silver medal in the 4 x 400-meter relay.

For many of these seasoned athletes, the intensive training period paid off in the form of hard-earned medals. Among the medal winners was sophomore Ronda Miller, who added a women's basketball gold medal to her growing list of accomplishments. Joining Miller on the podium to receive the medal for the American basketball squad was 1997 graduate Dawn Talmage. Sophomore Touria Ouahid and junior Therese Rollven earned silver medals for the Swedish women's basketball squad.

The U.S. men's basketball team also cruised to a gold medal with strong play from Jeff Ploederi and senior Robin Johnson. Gallaudet's own Nikki Surber, Dyan Kovacs, Heather Lightfoot, and Brandy Tetzlaff led the American women's volleyball team to a bronze medal. Lightfoot attempted to convert a double win in two different sports as a member of the U.S. track and field team as well. However, the Gallaudet senior came up just short as she earned fourth place in the discus with a throw of 34.40 meters and ninth place in the javelin with a toss of 33.20 meters.

Bison women's swimmer Nathalie Devigne wore the red, white, and blue in the pool en route to three medals. Devigne won a gold medal in the 4 X 100-meter relay and a gold in the 4 X 200-meter relay. She picked up a silver in the 800-meter freestyle with a time of 10:00:73.

Brent Shiver, a Gallaudet graduate student and Bison wrestling assistant coach, earned a gold medal in the 76 kg weight class freestyle wrestling competition. The American team dominated in the track and field competition and the efforts of Gallaudet's student-athletes contributed to that dominance. Sophomore sprinter Ronald Wyatt earned four medals—a silver in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.09, a silver in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.21, another silver as a member of the 4 X 400-meter relay squad, and a gold for his work on the 4 X 100-meter relay team. Senior Patrick Deas joined Wyatt on the relay squads to also earn a gold and a silver and picked up two bronze medals in the 110-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles, respectively.

Junior Tony Berrigan grabbed a silver medal with his jump of 1.90 meters in the high jump, while Bison teammate Jennifer White earned a bronze medal as a member of the 4 X 400-meter women's relay squad for the American team.

The 19th World Games for the Deaf will be held in Rome, Italy, in 2001.

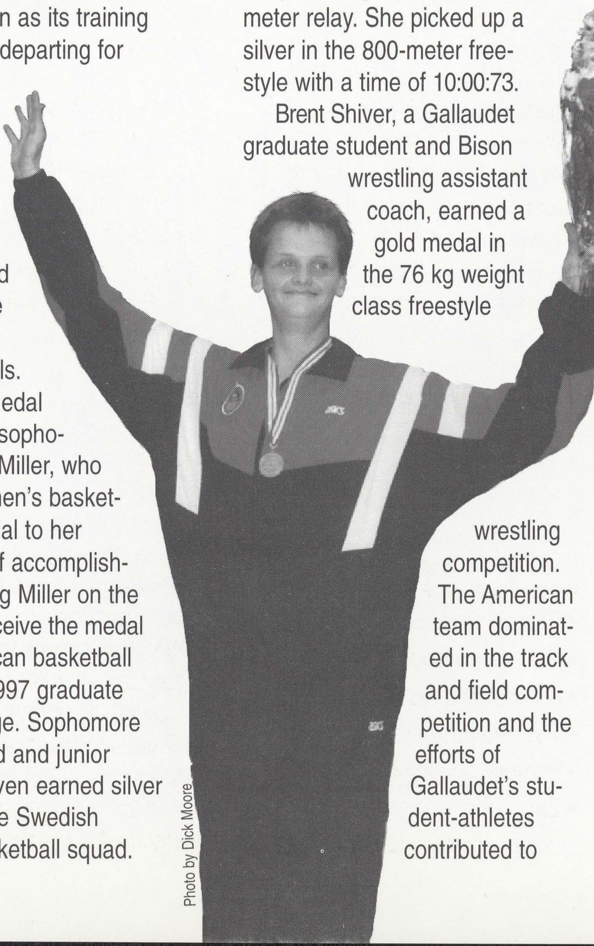


Photo by Dick Moore

Gallaudet sophomore Ronda Miller accepts her gold medal for the American women's basketball team.

Stu • dent • sau • rus

(stoo • dant • soar • ús) n. 1. a special breed of inquisitive men and women who Gallaudet recruits, retains, and educates. 2. pizza-eaters.

By Teresa Ezzell

Hello Out There,

Let me introduce you to our good friend Studentsaurus (pictured above). We call him Saurus for short. You will find him here each week along with interesting stories about our students. You could say that "Gally-assic Park" is his home, as well as where the Bison roam.

The Studentsaurus column will feature informative and inspiring stories about students—those we are diligently recruiting and those we are determined to retain and serve. The column will also highlight some of the innovative teaching and learning practices taking place—teaching and learning that goes on both inside AND outside the classroom.

The BIG NEWS this week is the excellent quantity and quality of our new student population. As of Friday, Aug. 29, 305 new students were registered—a number far in excess of predictions made last spring. Debby DeStefano, director of Admissions, said, "I am thrilled beyond words! The students that we worked so hard to recruit came. The Class of 2001 has a special place in our hearts because they are the result of our new recruitment strategies, including Star Faculty, *The Gallaudet link*, Open Houses, and the Ambassador Receptions."

See you next week with a breakdown of the Class of 2001. Let's all welcome our new students aboard!

ON THE GREEN

Kendall Green
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Programs help youth expand their horizons

High school students participating in a Gallaudet program this summer explored the heart of Mexican culture—its artistic contributions to the world and the rich traditions of its people. At the same time, a delegation from Japan was involved in a similar University program, probing deep into the proud culture of the Native American people.

Also, teenagers with a penchant for science took several weeks away from their summer vacations to come to Gallaudet, where they undertook such weighty pursuits as determining the health of the world's oceans by analyzing the transmission of light through water to see if phytoplankton—the major source of food for fish—is increasing or dwindling.

A fourth group of literarily inclined youth were at the University sharpening their writing skills and preparing a magazine filled with examples of their best efforts in all the literary genres.

All of these zealous individuals were taking part in summer programs hosted by Gallaudet's School of Undergraduate Studies to encourage students who have an interest in the arts or sciences to cultivate their skills.

They also took part in Personal Discovery, Gallaudet's ambitious program developed by Jean Berube, assistant professor of Physical Education and Recreation, that employs adventure and problem solving to build trust and respect in others, self-esteem, teamwork, and leadership skills.

> **"There's a lot of hard work involved, . . . but this has been an especially strong group, and it has provided a special opportunity for them to interact with other deaf students."**
>
> **—J. Doug Miller**
> **Creative Writing Program**

Blending art and culture

The groups studying Mexico and Native America were enrolled in Gallaudet's Young Scholars Program. Participants are based on Kendall Green for several weeks and spend their time learning about one of the world's dynamic cultures through acting, dance, and creative sign language.

From July 7 to August 1, 12 students immersed themselves in Mexican culture—from taking part in an authentic "Day of the Dead," a traditional celebration paying tribute to the souls of the deceased, to studying pre-Colombian art.

The activities were led by Tim McCarty, founder and director of QUEST: Arts for Everyone, with help from Gema Sandoval, artistic director of Danza Floricanto, a dance company based in Los Angeles, Calif., and Zaira Soriano Haddas, a professional dancer and photographer from Mexico City. Additional support came from long-standing YSP staff members Mike Lamitola, Yola Rozynek, and Rita Corey.

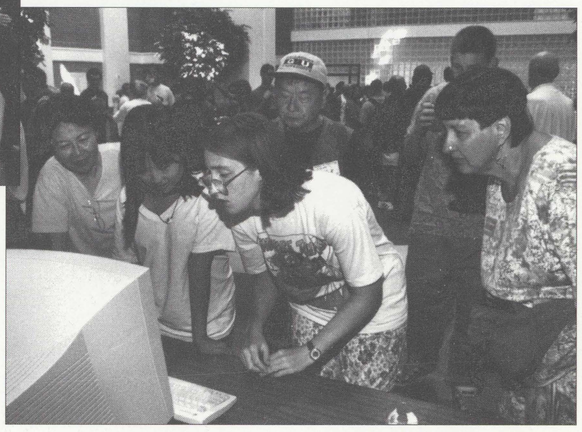
The staff worked in cooperation with the Mexican Cultural Institute, a division of the Mexican Embassy, to develop activities for the students. The itinerary included visits to the area's museums that featured exhibits on Mexico, sampling molé at a restaurant in Washington's cultural melting pot, Adams Morgan, and a tour of the Organization of American States.

More frequently, students took an active role in the learning process. They held a fashion show to model costumes from the various Mexican states. Maru Montero, a local dancer, taught the YSP participants dance steps from the regions of the country. And for one of the girls in the group who turned 15 during YSP, it was no ordinary cake and ice cream event. Montero threw a "Quince Cupleaños Fiesta," a central social event in the life of all Mexican girls on their 15th birthday, featuring dining, dancing, and fancy dress. All of these experiences came together on the last day of YSP in a public Showcase Performance at MSSD's Theatre Malz.

For the Japanese delegation of 10 students, six staff members, and four interpreters who were on campus from July 20 to August 8 to study Native America, the program began with a Smudge. In this Native American ritual, each person faces the rising sun and burns sweet grass and an eagle feather as an offering to the creator. The group, which was in its third phase of YSP, learned about other Native American rituals during a three-day camping trip near Frederick, Md., where they attended a pow-wow and built a sweat lodge.

The Japanese group also attended a welcome by the Japanese Embassy, made pottery under the guidance of Navajo ceramist Kelvin Yazzie, toured museums, and went sightseeing. To gain additional information about starting a YSP-like program in Japan, staff members from the delegation met with representatives of Very Special Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Each summer, a new country is adapted as a theme for YSP, and the students embark on the first part of a four-phase program to immerse themselves in their studies. The first phase is spent at Gallaudet, making use of the Washington, D.C., area's homogeneous blend of cultures. The second phase is spent in the host country. In the third phase, the students, along with educators and artists from the host country come to Gallaudet to learn how to establish a program similar to YSP in their country. And the fourth phase is spent back in their home country creating a YSP-like program. In addition to Mexico and Native America, past themes for YSP programs have included Russia, India, Japan, and Deaf cultures. Next year, South Africa will be added to the mix.



Top: The YSP group from Japan is joined by American deaf students in its Showcase Performance about Native American culture. **Bottom:** Summer Science Program participants and visitors observe students' science projects on the World Wide Web at SSP's open house.

Making discoveries

The 10 students in the Summer Science Program, held July 7 to August 1, had the good fortune of being the first SSP group to use the Science Department's new computers. The upgraded technology allowed them to make use of image processing software that permits, for example, the option of using animation in making Web pages, which each student was required to do.

Using the Web is important, believes Physics Professor David Snyder, because it helps students present data when documenting their experiments—just like professional scientists do.

"The purpose of SSP is to simulate the science field and give students a direct experience with real science and show them that the field is accessible to them," Dr. Snyder explained. This is reinforced by visits with the many deaf scientists in the area who share their experiences with the students and explain to them how they got their jobs. Also serving as role models to the SSP group this year were Chemistry Professor Michael Moore and Gallaudet students Dawn Walker, a biology and education major, who served as an instructor, and Hatim Vali, a physics and engineering major, who provided technical assistance on computers and in the lab.

One of the group's experiments was to simulate the July 4 Pathfinder landing on Mars. In this version, the students constructed a vessel, in the same tetrahedron shape as the craft used in the real landing, that safely carried an egg, 250 milliliters of water, and a matchbox car from a fourth-floor window at HMB to the ground below.

The heart of each SSP experience is the science project that each student is required to complete. Creativity in choosing an experiment is encouraged—and

continued on page 4

Wanted: Your two cents worth

By Denise LaRue

Have you ever thought of an idea that you believe could have a positive impact on Gallaudet's programs and services but never had a way to share your suggestions?

This fall, the University will start a new program, the Community Involvement Program, which will give you this opportunity—and your ideas may be worth a gift or a savings bond.

Through the CIP, faculty, teachers, and staff will be encouraged to offer suggestions that may impact the University's goals, mission, priorities, programs, or services. The CIP will enable employees to influence objectives, strategies, or operations that may fall in a different unit or outside of their control.

Ideas or suggestions may enable the University to:

- Control or reduce expenses
- Generate income
- Attract students
- Improve program quality
- Improve service efficiency
- Enrich the environment
- Benefit the community at large

The Personnel Office will be responsible for processing CIP suggestions. Ideas relating to the purpose of the program will be forwarded to the appropriate unit administrator for further review and evaluation.

If an idea is a good one but cannot be accepted, or if it is rejected at some stage of the review process, the person who initiated the idea will be informed and receive a gift as a token of appreciation. If a suggestion is accepted and fully implemented, the person will receive up to a $500 savings bond.

All CIP awards will be announced in *On the Green*. CIP suggestion forms will be available at the Personnel Office in College Hall; the Auxiliary Services Office in Ely Center; the mail room at HMB; the reception areas at MSSD and KDES; and the time clock area at PPD. Suggestions may also be submitted via e-mail to CIP.

Detailed information about the CIP will be mailed soon to all faculty, teachers, and staff. Questions about the program should be directed to the Personnel Office.

Grants support Gallaudet's training and research

continued from page 1

directors are as follows:

- "Preparation of School Social Workers for Work with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children," $205,325, U.S. Department of Education, 8/15/97-8/14/98, Teresa Arcari, College of Arts and Sciences/ Department of Social Work
- "Summer Institute for Middle School and High School Teachers of the Deaf in Life and Environmental Sciences," $258,507, National Science Foundation, 2/1/97-1/31/98, Dr. Kathleen Arnos, College of Arts and Sciences/ Biology Department
- "Modification and Expansion of the Existing Training Program: An M.A. in School Counseling Serving Students Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing," $93,946, U.S. Department of Education, 10/1/96-9/30/97, Dr. Howard Busby, SEHS/ Counseling Department
- "GLOBE Partnership," a cooperative agreement only, The GLOBE Program, 4/1/97-3/31/02, Mary Ellsworth, PCNMP/ MSSD, and Dr. David Snyder, College of Arts and Sciences/Chemistry and Physics Department
- "Auditory Temporal Processes, Speech Perception and Aging," $95,938, National Institutes of Health/University of Maryland, 1/15/97-11/30/97, Dr. Peter Fitzgibbons, School of Communication/ Audiology and Speech Language Pathology
- "Lifelong Learning Symposium," $21,105, U.S. Department of Education, 6/2/97-8/31/97, David Frank, College for Continuing Education/ University Conference Management
- "Sociolinguistic Variation in American Sign Language, Phase II," $56,764, National Science Foundation, 8/1/97-7/31/98, Dr. Ceil Lucas, School of Communication/ Department of ASL, Linguistics, and Interpretation
- "Undergraduate Student Awards for Research (USAR)," $57,112, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 8/15/97-8/14/98, Gerald McGaughran, School of Undergraduate Studies/ Academic Advising and Career Center
- "Professional Services Contract for Student Projects," $12,500, Food and Drug Administration, 9/20/96-9/17/97, Gerald McGaughran
- "Young Scholars Program: Gallaudet Summer Science Program," $36,667, National Science Foundation, 2/15/97- 2/14/98, Dr. Richard Meisegeier, School of Undergraduate Studies/Honors Program
- "Development of Instructional Materials for Interpreter Training," $8,846, DawnSignPress, 6/2/97-6/30/97, Dr. Carol Patrie, School of Communication/Department of ASL, Linguistics, and Interpretation
- "Texas State Survey of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students," $41,500, Texas Education Agency, 9/1/96-8/31/97, Brenda Rawlings, The Graduate School and Research/ Gallaudet Research Institute
- "Louisiana Survey of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Youth," $29,555, Louisiana State Department of Education, 10/1/96-7/31/97, Brenda Rawlings
- "National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program," $25,000, George Washington University (NASA), 3/1/97-2/28/98, Dr. David Snyder, College of Arts and Sciences/ Chemistry and Physics Department
- "Vocabulary Development by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children," $15,235, Georgia State University (March of Dimes Foundation), 6/1/97-5/31/98, Dr. Patricia Spencer, College of Arts and Sciences/ Department of Social Work
- "Modification of an Existing Summers Only Training Program in School Counseling: Emphasis on Mental Health Needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Multiply Disabled Deaf Children in Educational Settings," $154,869, U.S. Department of Education, 9/1/97-8/31/98, Dr. Frank Zieziula, School of Education and Human Services/ Counseling Department.

YSP, SSP, Creative Writing Program expand horizons

continued from page 3

there is never any lack of it. For example, one student compared "soil" on Mars with soil on the Earth. Another used satellite data to determine if vegetation in Canada is increasing or decreasing.

All projects were entered on the Web, and students were available at an August 1 open house to explain their work.

A literary connection

This summer, five talented young deaf writers spent four weeks at Gallaudet, writing five hours a day, for the sheer love of the craft.

"There's a lot of hard work involved," admitted Dr. J. Doug Miller, an English professor who leads the Creative Writing Program. "But this has been an especially strong group, and it has provided a special opportunity for them to interact with other deaf students."

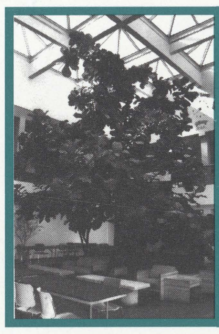
To provide writing topics to fuel the students' imaginations, they participated in field trips to the National Arboretum, the backstage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Basilica of the National Shrine at Catholic University, Pentagon City Mall, and several museums and galleries.

Miller also gave the students assignments in writing poetry, short stories, dramatic writing, and creative essays. "I gave constructive criticism, but they get no grade," said Miller. "It is mainly a way to explore their writing interests and encourage their strengths." He also talked with the students about sources to publish their works and career possibilities.

The culmination of the program was a student produced literary magazine containing their writing from assignments during the program.

ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Each week, dear old Aunt Sophie will answer questions that have been asked of her by our readers. And while she will make every effort to provide accurate information in response to all questions, she will "wing it" when necessary.



What's the story behind the tree in Ely Center? Aunt Sophie knows.

Dear Aunt Sophie,

Can you tell me about that humongous "Little Shop of Horrors" tree that is growing inside Ely Center in the lobby? Am I the only one on campus who thinks that it's not exactly your "average plant?"

Worried in the Snack Bar

Dear Worried,

I'm so glad you brought The Tree to my attention! After conducting a thorough investigation, I can only tell you that no one seems to know what kind of tree the thing is or, more important, how it has managed to become so gargantuan. Joanne Bader (Campus Activities) says that it was planted about 15 years ago—-just one of a dozen or so plants similar in size and color. How or why it so ruthlessly (Dare we say "murderously?") took over the container from all the other little plants, is indeed very mysterious. It makes one wonder if we have in our midst some kind of crazed "Psycho-plant."

We do know this, it thrives on dust and very little water. Sandra Shell (Custodial Services supervisor in charge of Ely Center) says she waters it occasionally and knows that Trudy Haselhuhn (Grounds Services supervisor) does the same, but other than that, it just grows—and grows.

Steve Nash (Grounds Services manager) thinks it's harmless and just enjoys the Ely environment. But, I'm not so sure. Far be it from me to cause unnecessary alarm, but my advice is to keep the kids and pets at a safe distance.

Dear Aunt Sophie,

Is it true that the initial "I" in President I. King Jordan's name stands for Igor?

Clueless in Peet

Dear Clueless,

If you must know, the "I" stands for Irving. But I'd call him Dr. Jordan if I was you.

If you have a burning question that you would like to ask Aunt Sophie, e-mail her at PUBLICREL. Be sure you say your question is for Aunt Sophie.

ALUMNI CONNECTION

By Daphne McGregor

The Alumni Visitors Program was established last January to invite professionally employed Gallaudet alumni living in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to share their experiences in the work world with current Gallaudet students.

Twenty-seven enthusiastic alumni returned to their alma mater and visited seven classes as presenters and/or panelists during the spring semester. Faculty members and students asked questions about the alumni's educational experiences, career preparation, work expectations, and asked their advice for young people entering the world of work.

The alumni found their visits very enriching and meaningful because of their opportunities to develop bonds between alumni and students in terms of academic and career preparation. They continue to serve as role models and to reinforce the University's efforts to train current Gallaudet students for employment and advanced studies.

In July, invitations were sent to alumni living in the D.C. metro area, resulting in more than 70 responses from alumni interested in participating in this exciting program.

Last month, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Peg Hall sent an e-mail inviting faculty to take advantage of the generosity of these alumni and have them talk to their students in class. As of now, there are more than 15 requests for alumni visits for the fall term.

If you are interested in the Alumni Visitors Program, please let me know whether you want to serve as a participant or wish to have alumni visit and give talks in your class. I can be reached at x5081 or on e-mail at DCMCGREGOR.